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AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF LAW LIBRARIES

Report of Committee on

REGIONAL COOPERATION IN THE DEVELOPMENT
OF SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

WM. R. ROALFE, CHAIRMAN

(MRS.) ELIZABETH A. CUPP

F. B. CROSSLEY

1. Introduction.

Pursuant to a suggestion offered to the last annual meeting of the American Association of Law Libraries by Mrs. Elizabeth A. Cupp, Librarian, School of Law, University of Southern California, a committee on "Regional Cooperation in the Development of Special Collections" was appointed with instructions to present a report at the meeting to be held in New Haven, commencing June 22nd, of this year.

While the committee realized that such progress as had been made, or would hereafter be made, must for the most part depend upon the efforts of librarians representing libraries in close proximity, they believed that the first and most important step for them to take was to make a national survey for the

purpose of ascertaining (1) what progress has actually been made along these lines, (2) what is the present status of such cooperation in the various localities in which it has been commenced, (3) what obstacles present themselves where cooperation has been attempted and (4) to obtain the opinions, suggestions and recommendations of all members of the Association who are interested in the problem.

To accomplish these purposes a questionnaire was sent to all members and this report is based upon the replies received. The committee is fully cognizant of the fact that this report marks no more than a beginning, but feels that the replies received clearly prove the importance of the problem presented and justify the belief that progress by concerted effort can in the future be made. The remainder of this report will deal with (1) a summary of the replies obtained to the seven questions included in the questionnaire, (2) the quotation of several excerpts from the answers verbatim because they emphasize particular points or are not completely covered by the summary, (3) a critical discussion, (4) a list of general conclusions, and (5) the recommendations of the committee.

II. Summary of Answers to Questionnaire.

In response to the 138 questionnaires sent out 56 were returned, each of which gave some information of value or included suggestions of interest. This material will now be considered separately under the specific questions asked.

Question #1: Does your library cooperate with any other library in such a manner that each places an emphasis on the acquisition of particular classes or types of material, with the understanding that the cooperating library, or libraries, shall emphasize the acquisition of other special classes or types of material?

To this question there were eighteen affirmative replies and thirty-eight in the negative. In a few cases where the questionnaire showed an affirmative reply, but the answers to the other questions indicated that the cooperation was actually in some other manner than in the development of special collections, namely, through inter-library loans alone, etc., the reply was listed as negative. A number of the librarians making returns so replied indicating the prevalence of cooperation of this sort where no arrangement for cooperative purchasing exists.

Question #2: If so, with what other library, or libraries, does your library cooperate?

Thirty-five libraries reported the existence of no cooperation of this kind, while twenty-one indicated cooperation with one or more libraries. In this number are included four state libraries, although in the case of one of these the cooperation appeared to be by inter-library loans rather than in the purchase of books. The other three cooperate with adjacent public, bar association and college or university libraries while two also cooperate with state historical libraries and one with a medical and a theological library as well. The Provincial library at Victoria reported cooperation with both public and university libraries. Four bar association libraries and three county law libraries gave affirmative replies, indicating cooperation with university and public libraries. One of this number also cooperated with a state library and another with

several special libraries in the immediate vicinity. Five university law libraries reported cooperation, three indicating the general libraries on the campus among the cooperating libraries. No doubt such campus cooperation was assumed as understood in the case of the other university libraries. All, however, indicated cooperation beyond the campus limits except one. With this one exception all showed cooperation with another law library, either state or county, and one also included a state historical library. Only one court library made a return indicating cooperation with another court library. In this case both a university law and general library were included in the group. The libraries discussed above, arranged in geographical groups according to states, are as follows:

California

- State Library
- Univ. of Calif. School of Jurisprudence Library
- San Francisco Law Library
- University of Southern California Law Library
- Los Angeles County Law Library

Connecticut

- Connecticut State Library
- Hartford Public Library
- Hartford County Bar Library
- Watkinson Library of Reference
- Historical Society Library
- Hunt Memorial Medical Library
- Trinity College Library
- Connecticut Public Library Committee

Illinois

- Chicago Bar Association Library
- Northwestern University Law School (Elbert H. Gary Library)
- University of Chicago Law Library

Massachusetts

- State Library
- Social Law Library
- Hampden County Law Library
- Springfield City Library
- Worcester County Law Library
- Worcester Public Library
- American Antiquarian Library
- Several local college libraries

Minnesota

- Minneapolis Bar Association Library
- Minnesota State Library

New York

- Association of the Bar Library
- New York Public Library
- Court of Appeals Library, Syracuse
- Appellate Division Library, Rochester

State Library
Syracuse University Law Library
Syracuse University Library

Ohio

Western Reserve University Law Library
Cleveland Law Library
Cleveland College Library

Pennsylvania

Allegheny County Law Library
Carnegie Library of Pittsburg (general)

Rhode Island

State Law Library
State Library
Brown University Library
John Carter Brown Library
Providence Public Library

Tennessee

University of Tennessee Law Library
Knoxville Bar Association Library

Washington

University of Washington Law Library
King County Law Library

Wisconsin

University of Wisconsin Law Library
State Library
State Historical Library
Legislative Reference Library

British Columbia

Provincial Library
University Library, Vancouver
Public Library, New Westminster
University of Washington Library

With regard to the above groupings it should be noted that no account has been taken of the degree to which cooperation has been developed. Some libraries report a considerable development of such a practice while others indicate only a slight development. In some cases it has been hard to interpret the replies but an attempt has been made not to list institutions whose cooperation is by way of inter-library loan without any attempt at building up special fields through cooperative purchasing. Cooperation between university law libraries and other libraries on the same campus has not been included in the tabulation. No doubt there are other cooperating libraries from which no replies were received. It will be noted that Massachusetts and New York are the only states where there is more than one group of cooperating libraries. There are three in the former and two in the latter, as indicated by the groupings.

Question #3: To what extent has this cooperation been carried?

To this question thirty-four made no reply. The remaining twenty-two replied in such a manner as to add something of value to this report. Several

stated that such cooperation had been only slightly developed. Two reported such cooperation for non-legal publications only and each declared that even as to these it was slight. The Connecticut State Library reported such cooperation "in many lines quite satisfactorily." As to specific types and classes of material, one reported cooperation to avoid duplication of expensive sets. A division by agreement of British Dominion and colonial reports on the one hand and codes and statutes on the other, was indicated in one case, while in another, decisions of courts and commissions were by agreement collected by the other cooperating library. Some slight cooperation of a like nature was indicated in several other cases. Two other institutions divided between them (1) session laws, constitutional and other proceedings of constitutional conventions, (2) journals and debates, but it appears that the second cooperating library did not keep up the journal and debate collections very satisfactorily. Division under another arrangement was of the session law material between a historical library and a state library, so that the former collected only those earlier than the year 1800 and the latter those dated thereafter. Two libraries reported the collection of appellate briefs and records for certain courts only with an arrangement for the exchange of such material. The California State Library, Law and Legislative Department, reports that it "does not generally buy South American material because the Los Angeles County Law Library specializes in this field." It also depends largely on the San Francisco Law Library for commercial legislative material of non-English speaking countries. "The State Library has very extensive court records and other libraries especially those in San Francisco have had to depend on the collection here for records prior to 1906 when theirs were destroyed by fire." "There is no formal agreement on any set plan of cooperation among the law libraries of the state." It should be added that the University of Southern California does not buy Latin American material extensively because of its proximity to the Los Angeles County Law Library. On the other hand, it secures everything in point in the field of air law. Some libraries secure Attorney Generals' reports and bar association reports with the understanding that an adjoining library will not enter the field. Several libraries report attempts at cooperation which for various reasons failed and were not developed to any great extent. Cooperation with a medical library whereby there is little duplication of material in the field lying between medicine and law was reported in one case. The same library reported cooperation with a library across the street in the field of legal periodicals. Both have complete sets of the most frequently used periodicals but by agreement the remaining sets were divided, each library agreeing to secure one half of them.

Question #4: If you do not at present so cooperate, do you believe that such cooperation is advisable and feasible?

Twenty-two of those returning questionnaires made no reply to this question, while five responded in the negative. Five libraries replied that the advisability of feasibility of such cooperation was doubtful, two qualifying such replies with the expression "at the present time." Seventeen of the replies can be classified as affirmative although in varying degrees. One librarian so responding states that "it can be overdone;" another says it is not only advisable

but "almost necessary for all parties concerned when feasible;" another approves cooperation for the smaller libraries but points out that libraries attempting to build up great research collections cannot rely on the other libraries for their sources. Another says "properly safe-guarded—yes;" another, "it is theoretically desirable. Many practical difficulties complicate specific attempts at cooperation."

Question #5: Please set forth such objections or obstacles as you have encountered.

The factors which limit or prevent the extension of cooperation brought to light by the replies to this question can be summarized under sixteen headings, all of which naturally fall into three general classes, namely, (A) factors which obviously make cooperation impossible or inadvisable; (B) factors which make cooperation impossible at present although it may become possible at some future time, and (C) factors which, although they are at present preventing cooperation and in some cases present insuperable obstacles, are still of such a nature that they may be susceptible of alleviation or removal. So classed, these factors are:

A. Factors which obviously make cooperation impossible or inadvisable:

1. Where the given library has as its aim or ideal the creation of a great research collection and has adequate financial resources to accomplish this result alone.

2. Where the given library has highly specialized needs and is not called upon for related material.

B. Factors which make cooperation impossible at present although it may become possible at some future time:

3. Where there are no other libraries within such a radius as to make cooperation practical.

4. Libraries which are not large enough to commence specialization.

5. Libraries which are large enough to specialize to advantage but whose present funds are not sufficient to provide for specialization.

6. Marked inequality in the amount available for the acquisition of special material as among the several libraries of a given group.

C. Factors which although they are at present preventing cooperation and in some cases may be insuperable obstacles, still are of such a nature that they may be susceptible of alleviation or removal:

7. Restrictive regulations of libraries and their governing bodies.

(a) Against the loaning of books.

(b) Against use of the library facilities by non-members.

8. Library users will not put up with inconvenience caused by having books in the collection loaned or by having to go elsewhere to use them.

9. Utility of the original collection is impaired.

10. Losses caused by and difficulty in securing the return of loaned books.

11. Radical difference in the needs of nearby libraries.

12. Difficulty in determining what is meant by special collections.

13. Persons in charge are not adequately trained to be capable of or interested in cooperation.
14. Acquisitiveness of librarians and library committees.
15. Rivalry and jealousy.
16. Indifference.

Question #6: Can you suggest any further steps to be taken?

To this question twenty-nine made no reply, while six answered in the negative. Several explained that their libraries were too isolated to furnish experience upon which to base replies. Suggestions made in response to this question and not heretofore discussed, include (1) inter-library exchange of information regarding important collections suitable for special research to be supplemented by a general policy of inter-library exchange; (2) a central union catalogue, similar to "Project B" in the Library of Congress; (3) uniform rules as to the loaning of books, insurance, time of returning, etc.; (4) meetings of librarians of the various libraries in a given community to formulate plans; (5) inauguration of experiments subject to local conditions; (6) state wide cooperation, including the forming of state associations of law libraries; (7) the creation of a committee of the American Association of Law Libraries to file applications with governing boards requesting that full powers be granted their respective librarians to extend the courtesy of the library to guests properly introduced; (8) a round table discussion "after a good dinner" at the next meeting of the A. A. of L. L. and (9) "continuous, gentle urging."

Question #7: Please discuss any other matter related to this subject that you believe will be of interest or value to other librarians.

While thirty-one librarians made no further comments under this general question it did call forth a number of interesting replies adding some original material. One said: "The plan proposed by your questionnaire does not appear to me possible. It involves a machinery for integration and coordination which I believe does not now exist and which I do not think could be made acceptable to individual libraries, faculties and budget administrations. The proposal should be postponed until an inter-change of data on existing special acquisitions. Lines of future development would then be more apparent for each library and some voluntary coordination could be expected." Another makes this comment: "The Special Librarian's Association of Pittsburgh has prepared a list of the various periodicals as contained in their libraries which has been beneficial, especially to the smaller libraries who could not hope to have a complete collection. These periodicals are loaned to the various members of the Association subject to immediate call." A third librarian states—"Very few, if any, law libraries in the United States (other than the Library of Congress) now has a complete file of the United States Supreme Court records and briefs. Many have them for a few terms of the court and then another institution is favored for a period, a most unsatisfactory arrangement to all libraries." "I think the plan of cooperation should be carried to the point, and not beyond it, where the average reader with a given subject should be able to find all on that subject in the given library and not have to run back and forth. Of course if the reader has two sides to his subject, legal and historical, or legal and general, he should

so arrange his work as to pursue one side at a time." "I should say, in general, that cooperation is a matter of well-informed and trained librarianship."

III. EXCERPTS QUOTED VERBATIM.

The following excerpts are given verbatim, but it should be understood that they do not necessarily express the complete views of the persons quoted as in all cases some of the material contained in their replies has been included in the general report.

"Our library does not cooperate with any other library in the manner suggested in the second paragraph of the questionnaire. A certain amount of cooperation does exist between our library and the general library of the University. We try to avoid duplication of expensive material. Beyond this we do not try to go. Each library maintains its own collection of international law, constitutional law, legal history and criminology.

"I suspect that some sort of cooperation would be the only salvation of the small libraries where funds for the purchase of books must necessarily be limited. It occurs to me that if several such libraries were located close together geographically they might be able to reach a satisfactory agreement for purchasing in particular fields. If a satisfactory loan service could then be worked out I believe that the various libraries might be able to serve their patrons in a fairly satisfactory manner.

"I feel, however, that the larger libraries which are attempting to build up really great research collections would find it inadvisable to enter into any agreements which would limit their purchasing. In our own case, for example, I do not believe that borrowing will ever be a satisfactory arrangement. When books are needed they are usually needed immediately and it is not practicable to attempt to borrow. I do not mean that we have not borrowed in the past, but only that this is not a wholly satisfactory arrangement."

From

Hobart R. Coffey, Law Librarian,
University of Michigan,
Ann Arbor, Michigan.

"We could only make arrangements with 'Public' or 'General' libraries and being a Private Corporation, (Association Library dependent almost entirely on initiation fees and dues of members for support), the impracticability of such an arrangement with either can be seen from the fact that less than one half of the enrolled membership of the Local Bar are members of our Association and that those not members might presume on such an arrangement, and our membership possibly be decreased.

"However, we do accord every possible courtesy, to the patrons of the other libraries of the City, not in conflict with the provisions of our Constitution and By-Laws."

From

Law Library Assoc. of St. Louis.
Gamble Jordan, Librarian

"The special field of Northwestern University Law School Library seems to be foreign and international law. We do not accession much material in this field because we know it is available at Northwestern.

"Our own special field is briefs and records in courts of appeal. Northwestern University Law Library has turned over to us all of its material in this field.

"The special field of the University of Chicago Law Library is old statutes and session laws. For this reason we do not buy any material in that field.

"There is also in the City of Chicago the Library of the Chicago Law Institute containing some 70,000 volumes. We frequently take into consideration in deciding not to purchase loose leaf services that the service is available to us at the Chicago Law Institute."

From

Millard L. King, Librarian,
Chicago Bar Association.

"Each law library in California, small and large, is attempting to fulfil its destiny and work out its existence, but is doing it alone. How much more effective the law library service would be if there was a true spirit of cooperation between the various law libraries. True, there is some cooperation especially among some of the larger law libraries around San Francisco Bay section, and with the State Library. But has the limit of cooperation been reached even there! And isn't it more essential that there should be cooperation between the larger libraries and the smaller ones? The larger libraries have somewhat similar collections. They have been built up much on the same lines. The smaller ones, however, are working collections, and anything outside of the practical and professional is not to be found there. So they should look upon the larger collections as being theirs for the asking and should appeal to them for anything that is to be found there. How could this be done effectively and expeditiously? By means of a Union Catalog as pointed out by Mr. Herbert V. Clayton, Law and Legislative Reference Librarian, California State Library (News Notes, July, 1924). This union catalog should list the collections of all the law libraries and should have notes on them where each item may be found. Then a library could refer its request to the State Library, which would be able to inform it just where the book desired could be found. Or a union catalog might be published and supplements issued from time to time. In that way each library would be kept informed on the accessions of all the others. In this way, too, the vast files of important historical material would be made available by the State Library.

"The smaller libraries should make more use of the State Library by taking advantage of the service of the Legislative Reference Department, by referring problems of purchasing to them, by using their photographic department whenever necessary.

"The spirit of cooperation would be greatly fostered if a State Association of law libraries were formed. There are nearly seventy public libraries to call from, there are many private law libraries who employ librarians who would be interested in such an association. Why should not at least the county law

librarians be placed on the same footing as the county free librarians? The latter meet in convention each year to discuss their problems. They learn to know each other and they become imbued with the spirit of cooperation. Why should not a state association have the same effect on the law librarians? Why could not the state association be as effective in its smaller sphere as the national association of law libraries? The American Association of Law Libraries has had a marked effect on all law libraries. It has been a boon to the law librarian. It has helped the bar through its Index to Legal Periodicals and its other publications. A live, vital State association that would help the upbuilding of the local law libraries, causing them to render more efficient service, would not only reflect credit on itself, and the judiciary, but would help to make the national association even a greater thing than it is now."

Appearing originally in Law Library Journal 18:108

By Rosamond Parma, School of Jurisprudence,
University of California.

"I think that all law libraries should have working collections of reports, statutes, etc. But after the libraries have obtained good working collections, I think they should specialize, one going in for foreign law, another for South American material, etc., rather than duplicating collections, none of which would be in any way complete.

From

Rosamond Parma,
School of Jurisprudence,
University of California.

"Referring to No. 5: We have found it impracticable to enter into any cooperative purchasing arrangement in the field of legal literature. The users of our library will not stand for it. Subjects and classes of books overlap and it would be a very serious inconvenience to a reader engaged in some serious investigation where time is usually an object, to be obliged to go about from one library to another to find his material. Moreover this library is a purely reference library. Its books never circulate. Therefore we are never in a position to loan books."

From

Franklin O. Poole,
Association of the Bar,
42 West 44th Street, N. Y. City.

"The only other large law libraries in New York are prohibited by constitutions of supporting associations from loaning books, or from permitting non-members to use the libraries.

"I do believe it advisable to cooperate as suggested, but hardly feasible in New York for the reason suggested; all the large law libraries I know of except Columbia, and even Columbia to a certain extent, operate under regulations of their supporting bodies, to the effect that they shall not circulate books; and that the reference use of the libraries shall be confined to members only. (Columbia, of course, loans available material under usual inter-library loan system, through the General Library.) For these reasons it makes little differ-

ence to us that the Association of the Bar has a good collection in a certain field, for, except to a very limited extent, our patrons may not use the material there, and we cannot borrow it, and I do not believe that such situation is very susceptible of relief here."

From

Miles O. Price,
Columbia University Law Library.

IV. DISCUSSION

While the answers summarized above furnish many topics worthy of discussion none will be herein included except some brief comments relating to the various obstacles to cooperation listed under question #5.

Numbers 1 and 2 above, (page 9), demand little consideration from our present point of view as they merely indicate classes of libraries which are not concerned with the problem of cooperation in this particular manner. Certain types of highly specialized libraries are not often called upon for general material and when this does occur the inquirer can be referred to an appropriate nearby library. Libraries with extensive resources are fortunate enough not to have to depend on adjacent libraries. It should be noted that libraries in both of these classes can and do frequently cooperate by making their facilities available to those who care to use them and such a policy will indirectly assist the kind of cooperation with which this report is concerned. Their presence in any district constitutes a substantial contribution in the way of law library facilities.

A large number of libraries are prevented from adopting a program of cooperation in the buying of books along special lines because of one or more of the reasons listed as numbers 3 to 6 inclusive (page 9). In many districts when the population is sparse or communities are relatively small or somewhat isolated there is no possibility of engaging in cooperation of the kind under consideration. Although development of the country in general and of certain districts in particular is effecting a constant change there seems to be little doubt that many law libraries will continue to operate under conditions not conducive to cooperation. Yet without doubt some will, sooner or later, pass into a class capable of such a policy. This may occur as the result of growth so that specialization becomes possible or by the development of nearby libraries which have been too small to be considered as cooperating libraries.

Unfortunately lack of sufficient funds is in many cases a contributing factor. Where a small amount only is available for books it is usually exhausted in securing continuations and absolutely necessary works along general lines. A number of excellent libraries are in this position today. The funds available could quite properly be called "maintenance funds" as they do not allow for growth in the sense of expansion into special fields. A slight variation in the situation just discussed arises in districts where there is one library in a position to cooperate in the development of special collections both because of its size and because the budget for books allows for some specialization but the other library or libraries in the district are either not large enough to cooperate or have such meager funds available that none can be spared for this purpose. Obviously under such circumstances nothing can be done and the larger library

is compelled to develop in many directions (perhaps in none completely or satisfactorily) in order to meet the demands that are placed upon it.

In the third group are listed the factors operating against cooperation which, though in specific instances they may not be susceptible of alleviation, are nevertheless sometimes capable of modification or removal. Many libraries, particularly bar association libraries, give number 7, (page 10), namely, restrictive regulations, as the chief obstacle in the way of the development of cooperation either by forbidding the loaning of books or by restricting the use of the library facilities to members only, or both. Obviously in such cases not much can be accomplished unless some modification takes place. In suggesting that this be done certain matters must be kept in mind. Libraries supported by dues paying members must protect such members both by furnishing an efficient service and by denying such service to attorneys who do not contribute their support. It may be that rigid regulations can be modified sufficiently to permit some restricted outside use such as that of the special research student as distinguished from the attorney in regular and constant practice. Obviously the latter should help support the library if he intends to use it frequently. Or perhaps non-members, if recommended by a cooperating library, might be given access to special material for a limited period and for a particular purpose. In short, can it not be conceded that the bar and other private libraries may deny their facilities to regular practitioners who would otherwise obtain a service they did not help to support, and yet permit their resources to be used by especially recommended persons for limited periods? If so, then many of these libraries could join with others in the community in building up combined legal collections of the first order.

At present anything like a complete legal collection is available in but a very few places simply because the number of libraries with sufficient resources to accomplish such a task is limited. While others will be added to this class from time to time there does not seem to be much prospect that they will be increased and distributed sufficiently to serve all parts of the country adequately. Short of cooperation between libraries most sections in the United States will remain without complete legal library facilities for an indefinite period.

A glance at a map of the United States showing the distribution of the larger law libraries clearly indicates that there are many regions or districts in which there are sufficient libraries to make cooperation possible and in districts where there are fewer law libraries there are many states where a state wide program could be developed. In the final analysis in many cases the issue can be reduced to the following statement. Shall a given state or district have adequate law library facilities for the use of attorneys, students and research specialists not only in law but in related fields, or shall its citizens be compelled to rely on distant libraries for this purpose? If the policy first expressed above is to be embraced, then, with few exceptions, cooperation is the only feasible means for the achievement of the goal envisioned.

Much of the above discussion relating to factor number 7 applies to the remaining factors and it will therefore not be repeated. Only new matters will now be considered. Factor number 8 (page 10) appeared in a number of questionnaires as an obstacle. It is to the affect that library users will not put

up with the inconvenience caused by having books loaned or by having to go elsewhere to use them. In reply it should be stated that all will concede that the best service can be rendered by having all books asked for available, but the study of this committee is based upon the recognition of the fact that most libraries cannot and never will be able to furnish such a service. Further it is recognized that the proposed program of cooperation is not to apply to books in frequent use. Each library must have these available. The attitude of the library user should be considered at all times, but it is submitted that it may be a mistaken attitude and that it may be based upon insufficient knowledge. If a library cannot supply every book in its field some method of selection must be adopted. Where it is possible to make no development beyond the frequently used material the problem is a serious one. Shall a library have a smattering of everything and a complete collection of nothing? To some extent this is what frequently occurs. The greater a collection gets, within a certain limit, the larger the circumference of needs and of possible purchases. How obvious it is then that users will sometimes have to "put up with the inconvenience" of not getting the books they ask for or of having to go elsewhere. At present most of us say, "We don't have such and such a book. You may find it at _____ Law Library. If not, you will have to go to Washington or New York." How much better from the users standpoint it would be if we could say, "Yes, we have a complete collection in this field," or, "No, we are sorry we do not have these volumes but the _____ Library (also in the city) has a complete Australian collection and they will be glad to let you use their volumes." If the person making the request were a serious and regular patron we might borrow the volumes for him by an inter-library loan arrangement. In short "inconvenience" must be admitted. That is not the question involved. The real question is, can inconvenience be reduced by regional cooperation and can law library service be improved by the adoption of such a policy? The above considerations are equally applicable to factor number 9 (page 10).

Factor number 10, (page 10) to the effect that losses caused by, and difficulty in, securing the return of books loaned discourages cooperation, while not a major problem, no doubt presents real difficulties. Cooperation based upon the understanding that books are to be used where housed is not affected. The problem of loaning is obviously one for local consideration and much depends upon the personal attitude of members of library staffs.

Factor number 11 (page 10) presents an obstacle expressed by a number of librarians. It is that there are radical differences in the needs of nearby libraries. No doubt differences may be so great that no cooperation is possible and if so such libraries cannot be brought within the terms of such a program, but surely such a situation should in many cases present abundant opportunities for the development of cooperation. All that would seem to be necessary is a general understanding between the various libraries as to the use of the respective libraries and books and each could continue to accentuate its special development, keeping in mind the development being pursued by the others in order to avoid unnecessary duplication.

Number 12 (page 10) represents those replies which give difficulty in

determining what is meant by "special collections" as an obstacle. Obviously the expression "special collections" is used in its broadest sense and is meant to refer to any class or group of books which is not frequently used by the particular library. No general rule or guide can be laid down nor would it be wise to do so. Such libraries as have already engaged in some cooperation have answered this question in any number of ways. In one case all session laws before the year 1800 were collected by one library and all those thereafter by another. Two other libraries have divided the session laws of the American States between them. Again, the English dominion and colonial reports and statutes have been so divided. One library has collected early English material while an adjacent library specialized in continental sets. Anyone of a large number of divisions and combinations can be made depending upon purely local conditions.

Factors 13 to 16 (page 10) inclusive all relate to problems in personnel. Many of the replies give these as the vital obstacles in the way of greater cooperation. That such should be the case is not surprising as the problem of cooperation invariably raises these difficulties. It is not our desire or intention to minimize the magnitude of such factors but it is certainly reasonable to take intelligent account of the fact that such obstacles are capable of modification and elimination. Because of these personality factors if for no other reasons, the extension of cooperation will undoubtedly be slow. Against them only a persistent policy of education will prevail and nothing can be more effective than the success of libraries in districts where they are overcome. Such education must extend not only to librarians but to library committees and governing bodies. No one will seriously deny that law libraries should be administered by persons who are "librarians" in spirit and aims regardless of training or background. Neither a "clerk" or "attorney" as such, unless he also be a librarian in spirit, is really fitted for the job. (Factor 12, page 10.)

Acquisitiveness is the 14th factor listed and it is most natural that it should be often given as this is certainly one of the greatest assets a librarian can possess. Who, if not the librarians, are going to bring about the assembling of the collections which are so greatly needed. There should be no wholesale criticism of this characteristic which merely needs guidance under an intelligent policy of development. The needs of the particular library should come first but not necessarily to the exclusion of the needs of the community in general. A library should not be a warehouse merely, nor should it be a collection of books for their sake only. It should be a collection of books *for use*. Fragmentary collections are frequently useless except as they swell the accession totals. It is submitted that acquisitiveness can and should be related to intelligence, an intelligence that is not limited to a "compartment" coextensive with the four walls of the library in which the particular librarian presides.

Unfortunately nothing can be said in favor of the characteristics of librarians mentioned in factors 15 and 16 (page 10); namely, rivalry, jealousy and indifference. Surely in these cases only quiet and intelligent education and the gradual elimination of the unfit incumbents, will be of any effect. If cooperation gets under way in earnest, rivalry, jealousy and indifference will eventually be

eliminated. As to all of these it may be said that the best under all the circumstances is all that can be expected. A personal and provincial attitude has no place among the qualifications of law librarians. That cooperation has been successfully effected is proof of its feasibility and gives promise for the future.

V. CONCLUSIONS

From the foregoing discussion certain general conclusions can be drawn as follows:

1. Many libraries cannot, for one or more reasons, take an active part in a program of cooperation such as is here under consideration, although a portion of such libraries will at some future time be in a position to do so.
2. Of those libraries which are in a position to cooperate a few have carried such a policy forward to a considerable extent while a considerable number have cooperated to some extent at least.
3. It appears that there are a large number of libraries in a position to cooperate to some extent or more fully than they do at present and as to which the obstacles do not seem insuperable.
4. Libraries in every class and combination have carried on effective cooperation in one or more localities.
5. Formal agreements as to cooperation have seldom been adopted, the end usually being achieved by a general understanding between two or more librarians.
6. While the obstacles are frequently formidable they are not always insuperable by any means and it appears perfectly logical to conclude that much more can be accomplished in this direction.

VI. RECOMMENDATIONS

In view of the conclusions above set forth, and in view of the importance of the problem, the following recommendations are submitted:

1. That the Association give the problem further study and consideration by all appropriate means available.
2. That the Association encourage regional cooperation wherever and whenever possible.
3. That detailed studies of cooperation in particular districts be undertaken and the findings made available to all persons interested.
4. That this report be made available to all who desire a copy.
5. That members give this report their serious consideration, submit corrections, offer suggestions and contribute additional data.

Respectfully submitted,

Wm. R. Roalfe, Chairman
(Mrs.) Elizabeth A. Cupp
F. B. Crossley

REVISION OF LIST OF SUBJECT HEADINGS ON LAW

Miss Helen S. Moylan has authorized the printing of the information, in a letter received from Miss Olive M. Jack of the Library of Congress, con-

cerning the revision of the List of Subject Headings on Law. The following paragraphs are quoted from Miss Jack's letter.

"I am going over the General Subject Headings List of the L.C. and making the comparison of each law subject with our subject headings, trying, so far as possible, to harmonize the subjects and eliminate those which are similar in phraseology, but in some cases I have felt that this could not be done, owing to the better expression in the law subject heading, from a legal standpoint.

"We have gone over the question of the foreign subject headings to considerable extent, and it seems that the list which we have is applicable to the foreign law in most cases. For those in which it is not applicable, we have added new subjects when possible, or if the foreign term, noticeably in the German and Roman law, does not lend itself to translation into the English legal subject, we have taken the term itself and used it as the title heading. When the subjects are written up for the catalogues, this title entry really has the appearance of a subject heading, with the exception that in our files we type the titles in black and subjects in red. This method of title entry has proven quite successful, and I believe that it was Mr. Hicks who suggested that it would be a good plan to print a list of the Roman phrases, etc., which are often mentioned in the text books, but which cannot be translated into a subject heading, and I expect to do this.

"Your suggestion that definitions of some subjects in the Law Library be included when the book is printed is very excellent and will be carried out.

... "I have spoken to the Chief of the Accessions Division concerning the binding, and he is including it on the schedule for this fall. So, I am going to have it printed, and then the corrections and suggestions from other librarians, as adopted, could be issued in a supplemental pamphlet, such as is done for the L.C. General Subject Headings List. However, I shall certainly send copies of the entire list to some of the law librarians for comment, before the work is printed. I felt as though there would be very little notice taken of the Subject Headings at the meeting, and I would have had to send so many copies in order not to show any partiality, that it seemed better to tentatively complete the work, and then get the opinions from those who would be most interested in the result."

* WILLIAM HALL ALEXANDER: A MEMORIAL

"Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might."¹

In this spirit William Hall Alexander served for a quarter of a century as Assistant Librarian of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York until his untimely death on the 29th day of May of the present year.

Mr. Alexander was born of Scotch parentage, at Cossayuna, Washington County, New York, May 24th, 1880. Left fatherless in early boyhood, he charted and directed his own education, not an easy task for a rural youth. He did his preparatory work at Mount Hermon and at Colgate Academy and was

* Read at the opening session of the twenty-sixth annual Conference of the American Association of Law Libraries, Yale University, New Haven, Conn., June 22, 1931, by Joseph L. Andrews, Association of the Bar of the City of New York.

¹ Eccles. 10:9

graduated from Colgate University with the Class of 1904. The responsibilities of thus financing his own education instilled in him early a sense of the practical, which, however, did not prevent him from being an earnest student of the humanities throughout his life.

Upon receiving his degree he entered the New York State Library School at Albany and served his apprenticeship in the State Library. At this time the rapid growth of the library of the Association of the Bar, and its expanding activities made necessary an increase of its library staff, and in 1906 Mr. Alexander was appointed Assistant Librarian. He remained faithful and persevering in the performance of these duties until the day of his death.

His contacts with books and scholarly effort, made during the period of his academic training, to which he frequently referred, aroused in him the interests which largely determined the choice of his life work. Always conscientious in satisfying the heavy demands of his profession, Mr. Alexander nevertheless found time to pursue these interests even further. His Master's thesis; *Jeremy Bentham: Legal philosopher and reformer*, published in the *New York University Law Quarterly*² shows how well he had integrated Matthew Arnold's "sweetness and light" with his knowledge of legal research. He had very nearly completed the work for his Doctor's degree in Philosophy when death ended a career distinguished by zeal in labor and devotion to study.

To Mr. Alexander a law library was, in the words of Sir John Salmond, "not a mere dead record of a dead past, but a living, operative, authoritative expression of the human spirit,"³ and in his many contributions to library economy he applied this theory in actual practice. A law librarian, he felt, should have an interest in creative work, and keep abreast of current progress in business and legal knowledge. He approached his work with thoroughness and accuracy. His efforts were directed toward making the catalogue an easily intelligible guide for the busy metropolitan practitioner; each card being in his eyes worthy of the same care and precision which the medieval craftsman bestowed on the work of his hands.

A staunch advocate of inter-library cooperation, he was somewhat of a pioneer in bringing about a systematic interchange of duplicates. He expended a prodigious amount of labor in the sorting and distribution of duplicate volumes—a matter referred to in his last contribution to the profession⁴ which indicates how thoroughly he understood the problems involved. He hoped by these means to point the way toward an even greater cooperation among law libraries.

The rigorous regime of work and study which he followed was never able to destroy his native love for outdoor life. Indian summer always found him riding new trails in the hills of New England, and shortly before his death he renewed his membership in the Green Mountain Horse Association. He would take books with him on these trips, and, like Montaigne, one of his chief delights was to read the works of the great humanists while in the saddle.

² *New York University Law Quarterly*. Vol. 7, p. 141

³ *Lectures on Legal Topics*, 1921-22, p. 266

⁴ "A.B.C. of Library Cooperation"

With many years of activity still before him, Mr. Alexander hoped to bring to perfection those ideas to which he gave his life. The work for the following day was on his desk, and his last words to his associates were plans for the morrow.

"Thus would all good bookmen wish to die, as soldiers in action, as men of affairs at their work, as sailors at sea, amid their appropriate surroundings doing their work, shining to the end."⁶

* THE A B C OF BAR LIBRARY COOPERATION

by W. H. Alexander

A short time ago the Association of the Bar of the City of New York received a questionnaire in regard to cooperation. Unfortunately, this questionnaire could not be filled out by us, because it could not be applied to our type of library. This would make it appear that we are lacking in willingness to cooperate. On the contrary the Association of the Bar is one of the most cooperative organizations in the United States, and cooperation is a fundamental factor in all of its activities.

I have called my paper the A B C of Bar Library Cooperation for three reasons: In the first place, the A B C of any subject ordinarily signifies that it will be a treatment of the elementary or essential features of that subject, and that will be my main purpose in this paper. In the second place, I feel that there are three of these essentials to bar library cooperation and I shall use the letters, A, B, and C to represent them. The A of bar library cooperation is cooperation with its own members; and B of bar library cooperation is cooperation with non-members; and the C of bar library cooperation is cooperation with other libraries.

My third reason for the title to my paper may appear to you frivolous, but I hope you will pardon me for carrying this A B C classification one step farther. I am going to suggest that the cooperation of a bar library with its members should be ample; its cooperation with non-members should be brotherly; and its cooperation with other libraries should be conscientious. I have chosen these words carefully and they best express what I have in mind. The service of a bar library to its members can be no more than ample because of the smallness of its staff and the limited amount of its funds. It is obvious that you cannot put on your shelves every book which your members may happen to call for; nor can you have on hand second copies of every book which is temporarily removed from the shelves for binding or for other reasons. It is also apparent that if a member hands to your attendant a brief and tells him to look up all of the citations in that brief, and bring to him the volumes cited, the attendant must politely explain that in justice to the other members such extraordinary service cannot be given to him. Finally, although a very

⁶ Jackson. *Anatomy of Bibliomania*. p. 286-87

* Read at the Fifth Session of the Conference of the American Association of Law Libraries, Yale University, New Haven, Conn., June 26, 1931, by Mr. Arthur S. McDaniel, Association of the Bar of the City of New York.

important feature of service to members is the reference work done over the telephone, it is obvious that this service must be strictly limited in character. As you are aware many members would use the telephone to prepare entire briefs if they were given the opportunity to do so. In the next place, service of a bar library to non-members should be brotherly, by which I mean that it should be characterized by a certain amount of give and take, and a fundamental understanding of the needs of the research worker and of the reasonable claims of other organizations. We all know that visitors in a library are a nuisance. They do not understand our system; they demand an extraordinary amount of service; and they are not always as courteous as we would expect them to be in view of the fact that they are receiving special privileges. We respect them, however, because we know that they are doing something which will be of permanent value, or which will enable another organization to cooperate with us to the same or similar ends. You will probably wonder why I have called bar library service to other libraries conscientious. The demands upon a bar library in a large city are very great. Courtesies must be extended to other librarians in the city as well as to those who are passing through; and there is a large amount of our correspondence which is directly concerned with our relations to other libraries. We are never satisfied with the little that we can do for these guests of ours, and we would gladly exchange a large part of our disagreeable correspondence with booksellers, chairmen of committees, etc., for the more profitable correspondence which we might have with our fellow-librarians. What we can do for other libraries is governed, however, by the amount of time which we can conscientiously steal from our routine work. Let us turn now to the main subject of our paper which is an analysis of the essential features of bar library cooperation in its three distinctive phases.

A. Bar Library Cooperation With Its Own Members.

The relation of a bar library to its members has a double aspect; personal service must be rendered by the staff, and at the same time special facilities must be available to make that service effective. Satisfactory service must be quiet, expeditious, and intelligent. The members who use the library are frequently nervous and irritable because they are working under pressure. A brief or a piece of research work must be prepared in a limited amount of time, and it often requires steady application ten to fourteen hours a day for several days to complete it. The Association of the Bar has had a fair amount of success in giving its members efficient personal service. In order to secure quietness, all page service has been removed from the reading room and contact with pages is maintained by an electric signal system. Only the reference assistants remain on the library floor, and the work which they do in their spare time is such as can be done quietly and individually. I refer to filing, indexing of periodicals, loose leaf service work, checking of bills, etc. There is also no paging of members in the reading room for telephone calls or visitors. Every member who expects calls fills out a red card which he finds on his reading table when he arrives and which is turned over to and kept by the reference assistant, and the member is personally notified of any messages for him.

A number of years ago, in a paper before this Association, I defended the alphabetical arrangement of text books on the shelves; and I am still convinced that this is the most important factor for expeditious service. The Association of the Bar continues this policy but a new feature has been added which serves to distinguish the various collections. Letters are used to represent these collections, and the letter is stamped inside the cover of each book and is also added to the catalog card. A is used for atlases and maps; B for Bar Associations; C for constitutional law, history, and political science; E for English reports; I for international law; L for legal miscellany; R for Roman law; S for state and United States reports; T for trials; and V for vault. The letter D on the catalog cards represents our stack collection, which is classified on the shelves without adding the classification numbers to the cards themselves. The text books on the reading room floor are distinguished by the absence of any such letter. Another essential element in expeditious service is the daily adjustment of the books on the shelves, and as a result a serious misplacement of books seldom occurs in our library. Each of the subordinates on the staff has his own section for which he is personally responsible and in which he takes a personal pride. In addition to this daily inspection, the members of the reference staff check up on all the books throughout the building at least once a week.

The problem of giving the members of a bar library intelligent service is a very serious one. Theoretically, a librarian should be available for their needs at all times; but this becomes more and more impossible as the library grows and the special duties of the librarians multiply. At the Association of the Bar no librarian can spend more than an hour or two a day on the reading room floor. Each day is therefore divided up among the staff, including the assistant catalogers who have an hour each of reference service so as to keep them familiar with the needs of the members. In order to supplement the limited service which can be given to the members by the regular staff, the Association of the Bar has tried an experiment which seems to be successful. A staff of reference assistants has been built up from the older employees who have had ten years or more of service with the Association. These young men are not trained librarians, nor are they college graduates; but they are personally acquainted with the members, and also they are thoroughly familiar with the facilities of the Association. They handle the reference work very well indeed, and this frees the regular staff from all but the more difficult and important reference problems. Another important feature of intelligent service is a separate twenty-year catalog. We have found that the last twenty years of general text books is about the right amount to keep in the reading room. One year of these is therefore taken out each year and there is no problem of growth space to be considered. It then occurred to us to have a separate, short entry card index for these, to which could be added cards for the last twenty years of text books from the other important collections such as constitutional law and international law. These cards are distinguished from the cards in the main catalog by clipping the corners, and one year of them is removed each year. I should perhaps add that superseded editions are removed from all of our working collections, and that the twenty-year cards represent the latest editions only. The

use of this catalog enables the reference assistants to give quick and intelligent service to the average member who is looking for the latest books on a certain subject. At the same time, a complete catalog with fuller entries is available for the research worker who wishes to cover his field more completely.

Before speaking of the second aspect of bar library cooperation with its members, I would like to call attention to the reserved books on the desk of one of our research workers. This desk was picked at random and I found there English reports, English textbooks, English and French periodicals, international law, Roman law, records and briefs, pamphlet volumes, and biographical dictionaries. Such a typical example makes it obvious that there is only one rule to be followed in regard to the facilities which should be available to make cooperation with bar library members effective. The book collection must be as comprehensive as possible within the limits of the funds available for the purpose. If it can possibly do so, the library should get the reports and laws of every government, state, national and foreign. This in itself is a Herculean task, as you all know, and in addition to these reports and laws there must be a full collection of citations, digests, and statutes. This entails an expense of thousands of dollars just for our own state alone. The new pocket insert feature will save money eventually, but the initial cost is very great. Another expense item for the bar library is loose leaf services, but those which are well prepared, such as those of the Commerce Clearing House and Prentice-Hall, are indispensable. Records and briefs can be obtained through the courtesy of the clerks, but the expense of indexing, binding, and shelving, is appalling for the bar library which is at all complete along this line. A fairly representative collection must consist of the records of the United States Supreme Court and the ten circuits, and for its own state at least those of all the higher courts. This is a very expensive proposition in New York State, where there are voluminous records for the Court of Appeals, and also for the four separate departments of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court.

The bar association library can restrict its purchases of periodicals and text books somewhat, and yet the entire field of law, home and foreign, must be more or less fully covered. There must be bound sets on the shelves of all American and English periodicals which are indexed in the legal periodical indexes. A careful selection of foreign periodicals can be made except those which deal with international law. Practically all of these are indispensable in a bar association library. The works of great legal writers cannot be passed by, and the library must be especially strong in such fields as constitutional law and international law. A very perplexing problem for the bar association library is the purchase of non-legal or semi-legal reference books and documents. A decision must be made as to which of these books should be available in the library and which the members can be reasonably asked to use elsewhere. The Association of the Bar feels that it cannot do less than it is doing now, and I shall describe in a general way the material of this kind which it has on its shelves. There is a very valuable collection of local atlases and maps, including old farm maps, and a bound set of Real Estate Record and Guide. We keep on the shelves a complete collection of Poor's Manuals and related material, including a bound set of the Commercial and Financial Chronicle. The Asso-

ciation of the Bar makes a very liberal selection of United States Government documents, both legal and non-legal, including many of the annual reports, the Official Gazette of the Patent Office and the Congressional Record. We feel that many of the documents published as the result of Congressional hearings should be available on our shelves. We do not attempt to treat these documents as a state library would, keeping them in numerical order. They are all cataloged and shelved separately and the smaller ones are added to our regular pamphlet collections. Our set of New York state documents is complete and we make a selection from the important documents of other states, especially the Attorney General, Public Utility Commission and Railroad Commission reports. Our city documents are also nearly complete, including a bound set of the official paper, the City Record. In addition to American documents, an extensive selection is made from the English Parliamentary papers and we have a complete set of the Parliamentary debates. We have decided that it is impossible to make room for a bound set of newspapers in a bar association library. As an alternative, we retain the current numbers for several weeks, and a set of the New York Times Index is available for reference use. An exception is also made in favor of the New York Law Journal, and also the United States Daily, which is indispensable in any library. The Association of the Bar subscribes liberally to non-legal periodicals for reading room use, but does not attempt to bind or shelve them. The question of the purchase of books in departments of knowledge closely related to that of the law is a difficult one, but it is our aim to make a very careful selection of books in such fields as those of history and political science. Legislative and Congressional services are essential in any bar association library, not only for the use of its members, but also for those of its committees which are working toward the reform of legislation. The reference books which must be purchased are many and varied in character. For example, there is the Encyclopaedia Britannica, the Dictionary of National Biography, the Century, Oxford, Webster, and other English dictionaries, and also dictionaries of many of the foreign languages. These are the more expensive reference books, but there are many others which I cannot cite here. They must be immediately available for the member and he must not be asked to use them elsewhere.

There is only one other class of material which I wish to speak of in this connection. I refer to the publications of the League of Nations. At first the Association of the Bar thought that a selection from these publications would be sufficient, but this policy was found to be very unsatisfactory. We are now taking all of them and have also secured the more important ones which are available for the earlier years. There has been much discussion in the Library Journal and elsewhere as to the handling of this material, and we feel that we have reached the simplest solution possible. We do not attempt to arrange and bind this material strictly according to the numbering system which the League of Nations has assigned to its publications. There are three reasons for this. In the first place, doing so would make it impossible for us to bind and shelve separately the larger and more important items. In the second place, there would be considerable delay before this material could be assembled and made available for the members. Finally, there are three sizes of publications issued

by the League. Therefore, we use the same method as that adopted for our other pamphlet collections. All publications not separately treated are bound up into pamphlet volumes of uniform thickness and in three series for the folio, quarto, and octavo size documents. The items in each volume are arranged according to the classes and numbers which have been assigned to them by the League, but our pamphlet volume numbers are arbitrary and are added to the catalog cards. We subscribe to the complete Library of Congress card service, and after the hearings have been added, we file together the cards for all publications, including those which we lack as well as those which we have, with proper marking to distinguish the latter. This enables the member to be informed of everything of importance which has been published by or about the League of Nations, and he can get it elsewhere if we happen to lack it. We also use the complete list of publications which was recently issued by the League, and this has been checked to indicate which items we have and which are cataloged. The Association of the Bar feels that this material will become more and more important as time goes on, and that the expense involved in shelving and binding it, and keeping it separately cataloged is fully justified.

B. Bar Library Cooperation With Others Than Members

There are several excellent reasons why a bar association library should be very liberal in granting privileges to others than its own members. In the first place, there are various officials who by reason of the dignity of their office should have the free use of the library. The Association of the Bar extends special privileges to the President of the United States, the Attorney-General of the United States, the Governor and the Attorney-General of the State of New York, the Mayor of the City of New York, the judges of all United States courts and of all courts in the city of New York, and the various consuls of foreign states resident in the city of New York. Judges from other jurisdictions who are assigned to courts in New York are specially notified that they have the free use of the Association. Again, lawyers are to a large extent like the old circuit riders. Their cases take them from one city to another, and they need the facilities of a library in whatever jurisdiction they are temporarily engaged in legal work. Obviously they cannot become members of the bar associations in all these various places; bar association libraries must therefore cooperate, with one another in granting them special privileges. In the third place, there are associations which are closely affiliated with the bar association and which should be given the use of its rooms and its library. The Association of the Bar does this regularly for the American Law Institute, the Maritime Law Association, the State Board of Law Examiners, and also for similar associations from time to time. In the fourth place, there are many organizations which are occasionally in need of legal facilities, and these should be granted freely by the bar association library. Examples of this in New York are the American Association of Labor Legislation, the National Industrial Conference Board, and various official bodies, legislative investigations and hearings, charitable organizations, etc.

Finally, the bar association library should cooperate fully with other legal organizations in its own city and state. The Association of the Bar has very

close relations with the New York County Lawyers' Association, and the Bronx, Brooklyn, Queens and Richmond Bar Associations. There is a similar co-operation with the State Bar Association which uses our building as its headquarters for its annual meetings and for other purposes at various times. A short time ago there was considerable comment in the daily papers, humorous and otherwise, because the Association of the Bar refused to admit women to membership in the Association. This cannot be considered an exception to our policy of cooperation. Our building was planned as a man's clubhouse, and admitting women to membership would mean a large amount of reconstruction at a time when our facilities are already overcrowded. In lieu of membership the Association has always been very liberal in granting special privileges to women who are doing research work or making special investigations for the law firms with which they are connected. The Association of the Bar is always ready to stretch its facilities to the utmost to make room for any person or organization which can use its equipment for the accomplishment of something which will be of general public benefit.

C. Bar Library Cooperation With Other Libraries

A few months ago, a member of the Association of the Bar found it necessary to investigate a question in regard to the Straits Settlements. The investigation was to be thorough and required the use of both legal and economic material. He gathered together what was available in our library and at the same time the New York Public Library reserved for him the material which could be supplied there. When he had checked it all up, he found that he had secured everything he needed by the use of only two libraries, and those only a block apart. This is ideal cooperation, and it can be provided nowhere but in a large city. The public library in every city, however, has some material which the bar association library cannot afford to purchase, and there should always be reciprocal relations between them. Similar relations should be maintained with the university law library if there is a large one in the same city. The Columbia University Law Library and the Association of the Bar find that they can assist each other from time to time although we lack the facilities to admit undergraduate students to the use of our reading room.

The bar association library should also be in close touch with its own state library. The New York State Library answers all of our requests, whether for material or information, with unfailing courtesy and helpfulness. Our less frequent demands upon the state and university libraries of other states meet with the same cordial response. I know of no reason why a bar association library should have any difficulty in keeping its American continuations up to the minute. Our current checking of the Rosbrook list results in finding practically everything already on the shelves, the few lacks being usually those of material which is published more or less irregularly. Finally, we all owe a great debt of gratitude to the Library of Congress. Its printed cards, its indexes to state and government publications, and its latest enterprise, the State Law Index, contain information which cannot be secured elsewhere. Requests for special information or for the loan of books are always attended to quickly and satisfactorily.

You are probably expecting me to have an ax to grind before I finish; I must frankly admit that I have, and this is where I brandish it. Through our sale lists you are somewhat familiar with the system of handling duplicates which has been so successfully established by the Association of the Bar. We send out semi-annual notices to all of our members asking for gifts of any books for which they lack space or of which they have no further need. Our members are so familiar with this arrangement now that they do not wait for the notices but call us up on the telephone whenever they have small lots to dispose of. In order that they may not be annoyed by expressmen, a boy calls and takes away by hand or in a taxi all but the larger lots. This system enables us to obtain many thousands of volumes every year. Of these, about twenty-five per cent are worthless and must be discarded. Of the balance, about half can be used to fill gaps in our shelves, to replace worn out volumes, or volumes needing binding, or to enlarge our reserve collection of important and much used material. The other half is offered for sale or exchange. Nothing is added to any general collection of duplicates, as was our former practice and as most libraries do now. All of it is sorted, classified, and listed, and every item of our duplicates is immediately available. This service costs us at least two thousand dollars a year, and the amount we charge other libraries for these duplicates is so nominal that it hardly pays for the service.

We had hoped to get our return in another way. Other law libraries have many duplicates already on hand, and they could secure many more by the establishment of a regular system of obtaining them. We wish to get from you the reports, statutes, and documents of other states on the same liberal basis through which you have received the material which we could offer. Why should we pay five to twenty dollars per volume to a dealer for state reports and laws which you can get as a gift and offer to us and to other libraries at a nominal price? Nearly all of you will say as we did at first that the time and money required for the establishment of such a service are both lacking. The answer is simple—make it pay for itself by money saved from purchases or for binding, and by the sale of the surplus which you cannot use. It should be absolutely unnecessary for any law library to purchase out of print American law books from a dealer; except, of course, those which are for one reason or another extremely rare. I have only one more thing to say in behalf of the Association of the Bar along this line. There is a strong suspicion in our minds that when our lists come back with a statement that you have everything on them, you have checked from the catalog and not from the shelf. We feel sure that you could use many of these books for replacement of nearly worn out volumes even when you do not actually lack them. I am taking this opportunity to urge a form of bar library cooperation which will save money for every library represented in this Association.

In concluding this paper, I wish to say that I have had two things definitely in mind in writing it. In the first place, it has been an attempt to comply with Mr. Feazel's intention that all who take part in his symposium should make their statements and suggestions as practical as possible. In the second place, I have had before me a proposal made by Mr. Hicks that there should be some sort of a manual of law library economy. It seems to me that the only way to

prepare such a manual is to compare the standard practices of various types of law libraries, large and small. If this paper has been of enough interest to you to demand similar statements from other librarians as to the difficulties and successes in their particular fields, it has amply fulfilled its purpose. If such a series of papers is presented to the Association, a large part of each can be eliminated upon comparison, but a residue should remain which will be of practical value to the profession as a whole.

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